

**Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church** is an open and inclusive spiritual community seeking to practice the radical hospitality of Jesus. We cultivate a holistic spirituality that, while rooted in the Christian faith, welcomes the wisdom of all faith traditions. We are a house of prayer and a school of love, seeking to serve the world in the way and in the spirit of Jesus.



**CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING** will be split between our sister church VERBO in Bluefields, Nicaragua and the non-profit Coalfield Development Corp. founded by Brandon Dennison. Quality homes, quality jobs, quality lives for Wayne, Lincoln and Mingo counties.

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** Sunday, Dec 31, at 10:45 a.m. There will be two rehearsals: **Friday, 5:30 p.m.** (dinner provided) and dress rehearsal **Sunday, Dec 31, at 9:00 a.m.**, before the 10:45 a.m. service.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S (PW) CIRCLE** First Thursdays, 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall. We will be guided in our discussions by the book *Fierce: Women of the Bible and their Stories of Violence, Mercy, Bravery, Wisdom, Sex and Salvation*. **Next: Jan. 4**

**COMMUNITY DINNER.** First Sundays. Sharing food and fellowship with our homeless neighbors. **Next: Jan. 7**

**TAIZÉ SERVICE** First Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Sanctuary. *A Service of Prayer* in song, silence, candlelight. **Next: Jan. 10**

**LISTENING GROUPS** Prayerful listening and conversation around scripture, poetry and other selected texts. All are welcome. Third Wed. 7-8 p.m., in the balcony. **Next: Jan. 17.** Third Thur. 10-11 a.m., in Classroom #1. **Next: Jan. 18**

**CONNECTIONS** SPC's Shepherd University-based group for college students meets every other Thursdays at 4 p.m. at the Blue Moon. **Next: Jan. 18**

**MEN'S BREAKFAST** Third Saturdays. Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Discussion, 8:00-9:00 a.m. **Next: January 20**

**SUNDAY SEMINAR** *Faithful Resistance: Gospel Visions for the Church in a Time of Empire* by Rick Ufford-

Chase. Jesus taught under the shadow of the Roman Empire. Yet even as the Empire exalted the rich and powerful, Jesus preached that the truly blessed are the poor, the hungry, and the weeping. How might we respond if we discover that our churches have more in common with the Empire than with the truly blessed? This series continues our ongoing conversations on race privilege and faith. Books are in the office, \$10 or pay what you can. **Begins Jan. 21** at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

**CANTERBURY SERVICE** Fourth Wednesdays, 10:45 a.m. **Next: Jan. 24**

**SPC KNITTING GROUP** Last Saturdays, 1 p.m., Fellowship Hall. Bring your own project or join us making prayer shawls and baby blankets. **Next: Jan. 27**

**COMMUNITY HYMN SING** Last Sundays, 4:30 p.m., Choir Room. Join us for a solid hour of singing hymns with good tunes and inspiring lyrics. Hymnals and song sheets are provided. **Next: Jan. 28.**

**WEEKEND FORUM** with Jessica Vasquez Torres and Crossroads Anti Racism Organizing and Training. This weekend will offer multiple opportunities to gather together and explore ways that systemic racism creates barriers to true multicultural diversity and racial justice, in our lives, and in institutions, especially the church. Clear your calendars, and stay tuned for more information. **February 16-18, 2018.**

**WE ARE GRATEFUL** to Jefferson Security Bank for the use of its parking lots Sunday mornings and special evening programs.

## SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

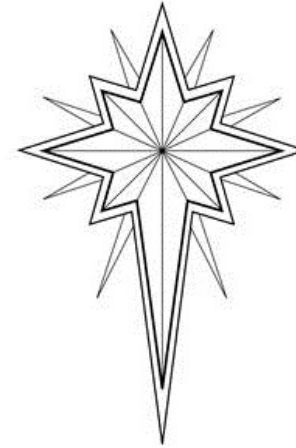
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Established 1743

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**The Nativity of Our Lord**  
Festival of the Incarnation

**Christmas Eve 2017**  
8:00 P.M.



“The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not overcome it.”



**SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*We Choose Welcome*

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Responsive Call to Worship**

One: Tonight we celebrate the Light that broke into the lives of humble shepherds.

**All: Come into our lives too, and give us a new sense of meaning and significance.**

One: Tonight we celebrate the Light that broke into the lives of educated and affluent Magi from the East.

**All: Come into our lives too, and give us new wisdom.**

One: Tonight we celebrate the Light that came to usher in a new kingdom.

**All: Come into our neighborhoods, O Beloved, and make us agents of your incarnational love.**

**Advent Wreath Lighting**

† † †

**\*Hymn 133** (vs. 1, 3)  
"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

**Prayer of Preparation**

**Response**

*Wait for the Lord whose day is near,  
wait for the Lord keep watch take heart (3x)*

**Silence**

**\*Hymn 134** (vs. 1, 4)  
"Joy to the World"

**Lesson**

Genesis 1:1-3

**Piano Interlude**

**Lesson**

Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7

**Hymn 119**

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

**Lesson**

Luke 2:1-7

**Choir Anthem**

"Manger Carol"

Polish/arr. K. Christopher

**Lesson**

Luke 2:8-15

**\*Hymn 113** (vs. 1, 3)

"Angels We Have Heard"

**Meditation**

"My Spirit House"

**Hymn 291** (vs. 1, 3, 4)

"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

**Christmas Affirmation**

**Offertory**

"Glory Be To God on High"

16c. Spanish/arr. M. Hahn

**Reading**

"How the Light Comes"

**Hymn 145**

"What Child Is This"

**Silence**

**Lesson**

John 1:1-5, 14

† † †

**The Light of Christ**

**\*Silent night, holy night!**

All is calm, all is bright,

Round yon virgin mother and child!

Holy Infant, so tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!

Shepherds quake at the sight,

Glories stream from heaven afar,

Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;

Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."

Silent night, holy night!

Son of God, love's pure light

Radiant beams from Thy holy face,

with the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

**Benediction**

† † †

**Postlude**

*\*stand if you are able*

**Prelude**  
Georgiann Toole  
Ryan Walker

**Readers**  
Kate Glenn  
Ethel Hornbeck  
Francis Marshall  
Mabel Patchell  
Morgan Sell  
Donald Sykes  
Brad Toole

**Piano Interlude**  
Bob Sykes

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**Interim Pastor**  
Rev. Bill Sitterley

**Piano**  
Georgiann Toole

**Readings**  
**Christmas Affirmation**  
Michael Morewood

**How the Light Comes**  
Jan Richardson

This is the irrational season  
When love blooms  
bright and wild.  
Had Mary  
been filled with reason  
There'd have been no room  
for the child.

**Madeleine l'Engle**

It is no use saying that we are  
born two thousand years too late  
to give room to Christ. Nor will  
those who live at the end of the  
world have been born too late.  
Christ is always with us, always  
asking for room in our hearts.

**Dorothy Day** (1897-1980)

Let us revel in the light of that  
star beneath which the ordinary  
becomes holy and the holy ordi-  
nary, beneath which it becomes  
exceedingly clear that there is  
nothing more we must do or be  
to be loved by God.

**Barbara Brown Taylor**

*Decked Out in Flesh*

Darkness cannot drive outdark-  
ness. Only light can do that.  
Hate cannot drive out hate. Only  
love can do that.

**Martin Luther King**

We are all meant to be mothers  
of God, for God is always need-  
ing to be born.

**Elizabeth Johnson**, *Truly Our  
Sister: A Theology of Mary and  
the Communion of Saints*

**Christmas Wreathing**

Sanctuary guild

**Arch Angels**

by Larry Drechsler  
Given by Jim and Sallye Price  
in memory of  
James Carter Price, III